PREFACE

MORE than a quarter of a century ago I began to acquaint myself with things Philippine, including the reading of the books dealing with these Islands.

Once in the course of this mental orgy I started to take stock and to count the works I had read, but on getting well up into the hundreds I gave it up as a profitless task. Now, I ask my inner conscience, why still other pages of printed paper to add to the written record of the Philippines? So just a word of explanation and mayhap apology.

In perfecting my study of the governmental side of the Philippines, I have been guilty of producing books with the principal aim of encouraging others to develop a virgin field, With the approval of the Philippine Commonwealth and Independence Law by the Congress of the United States and of a Constitution by the Philippine Constitutional Convention, this material will in the main be wasted. So why not make use of what is still pertinent, with additions thereto of the newer phases, to tell about the Commonwealth and prospective Republic which has been established under American auspices in the Orient? Surely it is deserving of description,

If you have perused the works on the Philippines, you will have been impressed by one outstanding feature in most of them—a predetermined point of view must be maintained and fortified at all cost. Frankly, I am sympathetic to the Filipinos, but it is, I hope, a sympathy born of understanding to

be weighted in the balance, just as for the last eighteen years in my judicial office I have weighed the facts and applied the law* So I propose to be fair—ruggedly fair—and honest, not sensational.